common along the type locality, it would, however, be quite possible to locate this species along the lower valleys of the Arunachal Pradesh Himalayas towards the east and also in Bhutan hills towards the west.

The authors have the pleasure of naming this species after Shri Ghanakantha Deka, the veteran assistant of the Shillong Herbarium (ASSAM) who has rendered valuable service for the Flora of Assam.

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POLYGALA MARIESII HEMSL.—NEW DISTRIBUTION IN INDIA

On a critical scrutiny of *Polygala* material from Assam, two specimens from Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh, *Panigrahi* 6651 & 16025 were found to have been under wrong identification (*Polygala arillata* Buch.-Ham. var. *purpurascens* C. B. Cl. ex Mukherjee, and *P. arillata* Buch.-Ham. respectively). These were identical with a specimen from Naga Hills (*Bor* 18367) which had been identified as *Polygala mariesii* Hemsl., a species described on a collection of Maries & A. Henry from Ichang gorge of Hupeh in China (Jour. Linn. Soc. 23: 61. t. 2B figs. 7-13. 1886). Even though Bor's plant from Naga Hills was correctly identified by S. K. Mukherjee, no mention of this species occurrence in India has been made in his monograph on Indian Polygalaceae (Bull. Bot. Soc. Bengal, 12: 29-49. 1958); perhaps the specimen had been annotated later. This review of the material has made it possible to record the distribution from the original type locality in China to Kameng dist., Arunachal Pradesh in the west, and Naga Hills in the south. *Polygala mariesii* Hemsl. can be easily distinguished from *P. arillata* Buch.-Ham. and its varieties, by its compressed clavate capsules and densely pilose seeds.

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TWO NEW ADVENTIVES TO THE SHILLONG FLORA

Shillong, founded about 1864 as a township has considerably grown during the century and with this growth, the complexion and contents of its vegetation too, has gradually changed. At different times, adventive species have entered and have become naturalised. In a detailed study of the flora of this hill station and now triple provincial capital (Assam, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh), two fresh adventives were observed and are now reported.

Sauromatum guttatum (Wall.) Schott, not an unfamiliar aroid in other parts of India, this was hitherto unknown in Shillong. A gathering of a corm in foliage, from Mowprem, near the Hindu Mission (*K. M. Dey* 32631, May 1, 1964), was naturally presumed to be the locally common and familiar *Amorphophallus* sp. On transplanting in the 'Woodlands' experimental garden the corm, devoid of foliage duly produced an oblong narrow dark-brown spathe with enclosed spadix (*G. K. Deka* 32354, June 23, 1965) which enabled its identification as *Sauromatum*. The single corm has proved prolific and notwithstanding repeated destruction of several corms, the plant has found it apparently congenial, periodically flowering and fruiting, and has established itself well in our garden (*A. S. Rao* s.n. April 7, 1966 & 38382, April 22, 1970). Both in foliage with its long cylindrical, upright, dark black green-spangled, stout, leaf-stalk and spreading palmately dissected leaves, as well as in bloom with its single upright oblong, contrastingly dark-brown and red respectively without and within the spathe, and the inner long cylindrical spadix, this plant also, like other better publicised ornamental aroids, has a peculiar and curious ornamental value which deserves promotion.

Tagetes minuta L. This interesting adventive extremely unimpressive in contrast to its very flamboyant cousins, the Marigolds (*T. erecta* L. & *T. patula* L.) is a weed. Commonly called the 'stinkweed' or 'stinking Roger' and listed as dangerous to live-stock in Australia, and notwithstanding its foul odour, it is said to be in use as a condiment in Hawai, and in medicine elsewhere in S. America, where it is native. N.C. Nair & P. C. Pant have described and recorded the distribution of this plant in Northwestern India [Bull. Bot. Surv. India 8 (1): 75-76. figs. 1-7. 1966]. In Shillong, during October 1964 one plant was spotted along a drain in the vicinity of Nazareth hospital, in the Laithumkhrah locality, and transplanted in a pot at the 'Woodlands' experimental garden. The next year, not only in the pot, but all around its vicinity a dense colony of *Tagetes minuta* L. had sprung up. A cursory count of achenes in one of these plants came to 1230. A few plants were made into specimens, and the rest except for one live plant, destroyed. In 1966, this lonely plant duly kept up the promise of a prolific progeny with a count of 360 plants, in an area of about 1.5 m diameter. This pattern of distribution of young plants surrounding the parent plant, indicated that the achenes must have splattered all around the parent. This observation and the fact that our original plant was also located near a drain, supports Ridley's remarks (dispersal of plants throughout the world, 217. 1930) that the manner of achene dispersal in *Tagetes minuta* L. appears to be by running or splasing water. The persisting and spreading capacities of many Asteraceae members are well known. This has been noted in detail in another adventive weed in India—*Parthenium hysterophorus* L. (Rao, R. S. in Journ. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 54: 218. 1956; Maheshwari, J. K. in Curr. Sc. 35: 181. 1966 & 37: 327. 1968). *Tagetes minuta* L. appears to be no less capable in this direction if allowed unchecked. In view of its obvious potential for becoming a prolific weed, all the plants in the 'Woodlands' garden were deliberately destroyed. Only voucher herbarium specimens: *G. K. Deka* 35866 Oct. 1964; *A. S. Rao* 36841, Oct. 12, 1965 and *G. K. Deka* 36841 A Dec. 20, 1966 are in the Kanjilal Herbarium (ASSAM).

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NOTES ON THE GENUS *SPERGULA* FROM GUJARAT STATE, INDIA

The genus *Spergula* is represented by only two species in India namely *S. arvensis* Linn. and *S. fallax* (Lowe) E. H. L. Krause (=*S. pentandra* Linn.). Both these species are fairly widespread in India as weeds of cultivation, although *S. fallax* (Lowe) E. H. L. Krause has not been reported from any locality in the erstwhile Bombay State as could be ascertained from available literature.

During the course of our investigations on the flora of north Gujarat, we have been able to collect large samples of *Spergula* plants from various localities. Their apparent morphological similarity has possibly resulted in the lumping of these plants under one name i.e. *S. arvensis* L. A critical examination of the fresh and herbarium material from different localities in Gujarat brought to light three distinct species found growing under similar conditions. The three species are 1. *S. arvensis* Linn. 2. *S. fallax* (Lowe) E. H. L. Krause and 3. *S. vernalis* Willd. For a easy identification. we give below a key.

KEY TO THE SPECIES

Styles 5 ...	*S. arvensis*
Styles 3:	
Petals lanceolate, acute. Seeds with wings as broad as the seed body ...	*S. fallax*
Petals broad ovate, obtuse. Seeds with wings smaller than the seed body ...	*S. vernalis*

Spergula arvensis Linn. Sp. Pl. 440; 1753.

The plants are slender herbs, branching from the base. Flowers are white and the sepals are slightly shorter than the petals. Styles are 5 and the seeds are very narrowly winged, unlike the other two species.

The species is the commonest (?) of all the Spergulas and is a weed of all temperate regions, now met with in almost every part of India.

S. fallax (Lowe) E. H. L. Krause in Sturm, Fl. Deutschland (ed. 2) 19, 1901. *Spergularia fallax* Lowe in Hook. Kew Journ. 8: 289, 1856.